**PATENT**
19036/37906

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| APPLICANT:<br><br>KAZUHIKO YAMASHITA, ET AL.<br><br>SERIAL NO.: To Be Determined<br><br>FILED:   To Be Determined<br><br>FOR: PROGRAM-DISTRIBUTABLE COMBINATION WEIGHING APPARATUS AND PROGRAM-DISTRIBUTABLE COMBINATION WEIGHING SYSTEM<br><br>BASED ON:  PCT/JP01/01338 Filed: February 23, 2001 and JP 2000-51356 filed February 28, 2000<br><br>GROUP ART UNIT: To Be Determined<br><br>EXAMINER: To Be Determined | "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label No. EL 200010224 US.<br>Date of Deposit:<br>   October 25, 2001<br>I hereby certify that this paper (or fee) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231<br><br>*Michael J. Hauman*<br>Michael Hauman |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A" ACCOMPANYING
SECTION 371 NATIONAL STAGE APPLICATION AS FILED

Commissioner for Patents
**BOX PCT**
Washington, D.C.   20231

Sir:

        Please amend the above-identified accompanying

Section 371 national stage application as filed as follows:

- 1 -

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 as follows:

--3.    (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication device is selected from the group consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a router.--


--4.    (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising temporary storage means for storing the control program received via the communication medium.--


--7.    (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication device receives the control program using a protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and AppleTalk.--

--8.  (Amended) The program-distributable

combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

the plurality of weighing units are respectively provided with

unit control portions, the control program received by the

communication device includes unit control programs for

controlling the weighing units, and the weighing machine

control portion distributes the unit control programs received

by the communication device to the respective unit control

portions.--


--11.  (Amended) The combination weighing system

according to Claim 9, wherein the communication device of the

combination weighing apparatus is selected from the group

consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a router.--


--12.  (Amended) The combination weighing system

according to Claim 9, wherein the combination weighing

apparatus further includes temporary storage means for storing

the control program received via the communication medium.--


--15.  (Amended) The combination weighing system

according to Claim 9, wherein the communication device

receives the control program using a protocol selected from

the group consisting of TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and

AppleTalk.--

--16. (Amended) The combination weighing system according to Claim 9, wherein unit control portions for respectively controlling the plurality of weighing units are provided, the control program received by the communication device includes unit control programs for controlling the weighing units, and the weighing machine control portion distributes the unit control programs included in the control program received by the communication device to the respective unit control portions.--
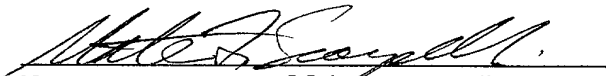
## REMARKS

The present preliminary amendment removes multiple dependency from the claims.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

A timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: Oct. 25, 2001

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

**IN THE CLAIMS**:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15 and 16 as follows:

--3. (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the communication device is selected from the group consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a router.--

--4. (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to [any of Claims 1 to 3] Claim 1, further comprising temporary storage means for storing the control program received via the communication medium.--

--7. (Amended) The program-distributable combination weighing apparatus according to [any of Claims 1 to 6] Claim 1, wherein the communication device receives the control program using a protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and AppleTalk.--

--8.    (Amended) The program-distributable
combination weighing apparatus according to [any of Claims 1
to 7] Claim 1, wherein the plurality of weighing units are
respectively provided with unit control portions, the control
program received by the communication device includes unit
control programs for controlling the weighing units, and the
weighing machine control portion distributes the unit control
programs received by the communication device to the
respective unit control portions.--


--11.    (Amended) The combination weighing system
according to Claim 9 [or 10], wherein the communication device
of the combination weighing apparatus is selected from the
group consisting of a modem, a terminal adapter, and a
router.--


--12.    (Amended) The combination weighing system
according to [any of Claims 9 to 11] Claim 9, wherein the
combination weighing apparatus further includes temporary
storage means for storing the control program received via the
communication medium.--


--15.    (Amended) The combination weighing system
according to [any of Claims 9 to 14] Claim 9, wherein the
communication device receives the control program using a
protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP,

IPX/SPX, NetBEUI, NetBIOS, and AppleTalk.--

--16.    (Amended) The combination weighing system according to [any of Claims 9 to 15] Claim 9, wherein unit control portions for respectively controlling the plurality of weighing units are provided, the control program received by the communication device includes unit control programs for controlling the weighing units, and the weighing machine control portion distributes the unit control programs included in the control program received by the communication device to the respective unit control portions.--